

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02686 020057Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 /079 W

-----020100Z 020916 /14

O P 020034Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3031

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2686

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AS KN

SUBJ: AUSTRALIA AND NORTH KOREA

1. ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN FIRST SECRETARY GRAHAM ALLIBAND AND ROSS MADDON (PHONETIC), FIRST SECRETARY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PEKING (PROTECT BOTH), NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI APPROACHED AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO TO INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF REESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN CANBERRA AND P'YONGYANG. AUSTRALIANS REPLIED THAT ALL DISCUSSION OF REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN DPRK AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING. ALLIBAND SAID HE THOUGHT AUSTRALIANS WERE GOING TO BE VERY TOUGH ON QUESTION OF REESTABLISHING OF DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE.

2. ALLIBAND RECALLED THAT HE HAD OVERHEARD AMBASSADOR HORNE IN A CONVERSATION EARLIER IN THE WEEK SAY THAT CONTACT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN ISLAMABAD, BUT BOTH ALLIBAND AND MADDON AGREED THAT TELEGRAM THEY HAD SEEN SAID NEW
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 02686 020057Z

DELHI WAS LOCATION OF CONTACT. ALLIBAND SUBSEQUENTLY RECHECKED TELEGRAM AND CALLED EMBOFF TO CONFIRM THAT CONTACT HAD OCCURRED IN NEW DELHI. (A PREVIOUS REPORT MADE IN ANOTHER CHANNEL NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR HORNE HAD THOUGHT CONTACT TOOK PLACE IN ISLAMABAD. AMBASSADOR HORNE WAS OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN.)

3. MADDON SAID HE WILL PROBABLY BE VISITING P'YONGYANG IN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AFTER THE PROBLEM OF ACCREDITING NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING TO NORTH KOREA IS SORTED OUT. FORMER AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR RESIDENT PEKING IS CURRENTLY STILL ACCREDITED TO P'YONGYNG AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE ASKED THROUGH DPRK EMBASSY PEKING FOR ACCREDITATION OF NEW AMBASSADOR, RESIDENT PEKING, TO P'YONGYANG. DPRK HAS NOT YET REPLIED, ACCORDING TO MADDON.

4. COMMENT: AUSTRALIANS HAVE BECOME NOTICEABLY MORE COMMUNICATIVE IN SEOUL RECENTLY. ALLIBAND MENTIONED THIS HIMSELF IN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF WHEN HE SAID HE HAD NOTICED THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS DEALING MUCH MORE OPENLY WITH STATE DEPARTMENT NOW AND THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE WOULD BE FOLLOWING SAME PATTERN.
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